

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 078397

61

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 078397

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, KS

SUBJECT: US/KOREAN BILATERAL TEXTILE AGREEMENT AND COTTON
CONTRACT PROBLEM

REF: (A) STATE 067264; (B) SEOUL 2185; (C) SEOUL 2271

1. ON BASIS OF FIGURES GIVEN JURICH BY PARK PIL SOO IN
TOKYO, WE HAVE PREPARED COUNTER PROPOSAL FOR EMBASSY TO
SUBMIT TO ROKG (SEPTEL).

2. IN REGARD TOKYO CONVERSATION, PARK MADE NO "THREAT"

OF ANYTYPETOJURICH. U.S. CUSTOMS HAS NOT REPEAT NOT
YET EMBARGOED ANY OVERSHIPMENTS UNDER PRESENT TEXTILE
AGREEMENT, ALTHOUGH THIS LIKELY TO HAPPEN IN NEXT FEW
WEEKS.

3. KIM'S LINKAGE OF COTTON CONTRACT PROBLEM TO TEXTILE
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PAGE 02 STATE 078397

AGREEMENTS IS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE TOUS; AND WE NOTE

ROKG COUNTER PROPOSAL REF (C) DOES NOT ATTEMPT TO DO SO.
FAILURE TO OPEN L/C'S FOR VALID COTTON CONTRACTS OBVIOUSLY
IS IN NO WAY EQUIVALENT TO OUR REFUSAL TO ACCEPT TECHNICAL
ERRORS IN INITIALED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING. LINK-
AGE MIGHT WELL CAUSE OTHER PROBLEMS THAT COULD SERIOUSLY

DISADVANTAGE THE KOREANS, E.G. U.S. COTTON SHIPPERS
HAVE PRESSED US REPEATEDLY TO REDUCE TEXTILE LIMITATION
LEVELS IN TEXTILE AGREEMENT UNLESS KOREANS FULFILL COTTON
CONTRACTS. TO DATE WE HAVE SUCCESSFULLY AVOIDED SUCH AN
APPROACH.

4. WE DO NOT WISH TO GIVE KIM'S COMMENTS A WEIGHT
THEY MAY NOT HAVE. HOWEVER, IF EMBASSY BELIEVES IT
NECESSARY, IT MAY POINT OUT TO KIM THAT LINKAGE OF
COTTON CONTRACTS TO TEXTILE AGREEMENT IS DANGEROUS
APPROACH THAT COULD WELL REDOUND TO ROKG'S DISADVANTAGE.

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